

# HOT News

Lincoln Middle  
School

Higher Order Thinking

December/January 15 , 2011

Volume 5, Issue 4



## What's HOT at Lincoln...

### School Governance Council

The newly formed LMS School Governance Council has been meeting since November. The initial meetings have been to organize and set goals for the long term operation of the council. At the most recent meeting officers for the executive committee were selected; Chair – Joseph Galotti, Vice Chair (Facilitator) – Tom Moore, Recording Secretary – Robin Wolk, Corresponding Secretary – Evelyn Robles-Rivas, Time keeper – Trisha Bleich.

The School Governance Council is comprised of seven parents of current LMS students, five faculty members currently employed at LMS, two community members and the principal. The purpose of the council is to act in an advisory capacity to the school's administration. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders in the school to craft a productive collaboration to support student success. The intent of the council is to enable parents, school staff and community leaders to work together to improve student achievement at our school.

#### Inside this issue:

Special Education Dept. News	2
Teacher Spotlight	2
LMS Spirit Days	2
Technology at LMS	2
PTSL News	3
HOT Topic	3
School Health	3
Hot Schools Info	4

### LMS Welcomes New Staff!

Lincoln Middle School warmly welcomes Mr. Marc Cellini! Mr. Cellini is an 8th grade science teacher on Team 8-1. Before teaching at Lincoln, Mr. Cellini taught 7th grade science in East Hartford and freshmen Biology in West Haven. Other than teaching science, he has travelled to Korea to teach English. Mr. Cellini attended Eastern CT State University and graduated with a Bachelor's in Biology and a Master's in Secondary Education. A few of his hobbies include baseball, football, hiking, and gardening. Welcome Mr. Cellini!



#### Please Mark Your Calendar

- Jan 17-20 Meriden Writing Assessment
- February 17: Town Meeting
- Feb 20-24 NO SCHOOL: Winter Break

## LMS School Spirit Days

Lincoln Middle School will be holding School Spirit Days on the last Friday of each month. Students are asked to wear our school colors—blue and white—or Lincoln Spirit Wear on those days.

## Teacher Spotlight : December

At a recent staff meeting we recognized Marie Broadway and Rachel Gulick as the LMS Teachers of the Month for December. Mrs. Broadway is a 7th grade Special Education teacher at LMS. Mrs. Gulick is a 7th grade math teacher at LMS. They are outstanding members of LMS who make up our faculty.



## Teacher Spotlight : January

At a recent staff meeting we recognized Mrs. Rose Petsitis as the LMS Teacher of the Month for January. Mrs. Petsitis is a 6th grade Special Education teacher at LMS. She is an outstanding member of LMS who make up our faculty.



## Six Myths About The Brain

From Sandra Aamodt and Sam Wang, authors of *Welcome To Your Brain*

People get many ideas about how their brains work from entertainment or folk wisdom. But modern neuroscience has proved many of these ideas to be wrong. The facts are more fun – and more useful.

**Myth 1: You only use 10 percent of your brain**

**Truth:** you use all of your brain. The 10-percent myth became popular with the self-help teachings of Dale Carnegies, as a way of helping people think about how to realize their own potential. But you need your whole brain, which is why strokes can be so devastating.

**Myth 2: Playing classical music to an infant can make the child smarter.**

**Truth:** the “Mozart myth” comes from a study that was done on college students, which showed a short-term effect that was gone in half an hour. Though babies don’t have the wiring to process all the complexity in classical music, they are mesmerized by it, which might be why they seem to like “baby videos” like Baby Einstein. However, a recent study showed that an hour a day of watching Baby Einstein was associated with slower acquisition of new words! Much better is for your child to learn a musical instrument. This activity involves active learning and is associated with increased cognitive achievement.

**Myth 3: Games like Sudoku and Brain Age keep your brain young**

**Truth:** It is great to be mentally engaged, and puzzles can help you get good at a specific skill, like memorizing grocery lists or hand-eye coordination. But most evidence suggest that practicing a task only helps you get better at that particular task. Far better for mental function is physical exercise. Regular fitness training is especially effective I the elderly, who may suffer from gradual problems with “executive function,” including planning ahead and abstract thinking.

**Myth 4: In a noisy place, you can hear better on your cell phone by covering your other ear.**

**Truth:** You can get a far better result by covering the mouthpiece while you are listening. This is because your phone feeds back all the room noise into the earpiece. Your brain is very good at separating left-ear sounds from right-ear sounds. By covering the mouthpiece, you create a situation that makes it easy for your brain

# Lincoln Middle School

## Parent Teacher Support Line

Upcoming Meetings: All meetings start at 7:00pm and are held in the Media Center or Office Conference Room. *Dates are subject to change.*

February 15th  
March 13th  
April 10th  
May 8th

### Technology at LMS

Technology classes at Lincoln are primarily hands-on, project oriented classes designed to allow students to explore many areas of technology. During term one, students used online resources to locate, evaluate, and collect information on various topics in order to produce a digital story using Microsoft Photo Story 3 for Windows. Technology Plus classes explored editing options in Photo Shop Elements. They learned how to use selection tools, color pictures, create layers, change backgrounds, add special effects, and create composite pictures. Students will continue to explore a variety of technology programs during the 2011 – 2012 school year.



### Hot Topic for December/January

#### Research shows high expectations lead to children's school success

Research shows that expectations for children have a direct effect on how he/she will do in school and life. Research suggests you:

- Expect your middle schooler to achieve at his/her best level, as shown by the top level of work he/she has produced at school.
- Have a good attitude about school and schoolwork. This shows your child that you expect him/her to learn at school.
- Know what your child should be learning and the standards for his/her grade.
- Expect effort!

### Become a Volunteer!

Contact the PTSL and become a volunteer at Lincoln!

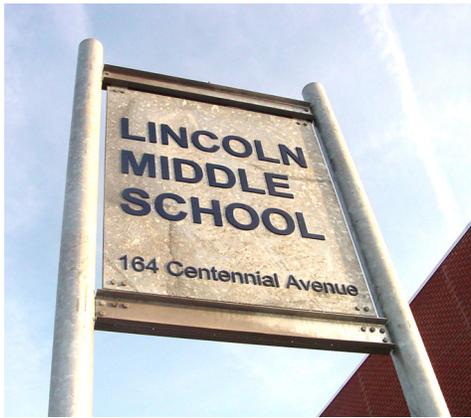
**WE NEED YOU!!!**

*LMS Pasta Dinner & Auction*  
*March 16, 2012*  
*Save the Date!*

### Reminder for

### Parents/Guardians:

School Based Health Services is being offered at your child's school. Your CHC school-based health program may offer Medical, Behavioral Health, and/or Dental services. All services are being offered at the High School level. Elementary and Middle offer Behavioral Health and Dental services only. All services are available regardless of income or insurance status. Enrollment forms and information is available at each of the school's main office and /or nurses office or by calling Melanie Wilde, Program Manager, at 203-237-2229 X6281.



## Lincoln Middle School

*Learning in and through the arts!*

164 Centennial Avenue  
Meriden, CT 06451

Phone: 203-238-2381

Fax: 203-238-7258

Info\_lms@meriden.k12.ct.us

We're on the web  
[http://www.meriden.k12.ct.us/  
lincoln/](http://www.meriden.k12.ct.us/lincoln/)

## The Lincoln Middle School Mission

*Lincoln Middle School supports the mission of the Meriden Public Schools: success for all students. The LMS community places a special focus and emphasis upon the arts and media curriculum. We believe each child should have a well-rounded educational experience that will allow learning through the exploration of arts and media. The arts and media curriculum offers special opportunities to fulfill the human need for self-expression.*

*Students are motivated and challenged through an academic program that engages their imaginations in dance, dramatic arts, musical arts, visual arts, broadcasting and video, and creative writing. Incorporating the arts in education promotes the learning of life skills and develops critical thinking. The arts generate the excitement that motivates student involvement in the school community. Participation in the arts, with its multicultural foundation, offers a wide range of human experiences fostering respect for others, building self-confidence, nurturing self-esteem, and developing self-discipline.*

***FLASH!!! Winter Weather is upon us! Please listen to and/or watch local radio and television stations to stay updated on school delays or closings.***

## H.O.T. Schools Philosophy

**Strong Arts**—In H.O.T. Schools, the arts are rigorous academic subjects, each with its own sequential curriculum conveying knowledge not learned through other academic disciplines.

**Arts integration**—H.O.T. Schools integrate the arts across disciplines, creating arts-rich environments that motivate students to make connections between and among subject areas and ideas.

**Democratic Practice**—H.O.T. Schools cultivate a democratic school culture that emphasizes individual leadership and encourages all members of the school community to contribute.

H.O.T. Schools strategically link learning in the arts to learning across the curriculum. H.O.T. school arts teachers and classroom teachers work collaboratively to structure

interdisciplinary curricula that promote deep learning of subject matter, higher-order thinking, creativity, adaptability, and teamwork.

The H.O.T. Approach to teaching and learning is comprehensive. It considers the whole child, teacher, artist, administrator, and school community. Professional development supports teacher growth and parental involvement, and leads to personal renewal. The strong presence of teaching artists and parents is a distinctive feature of the H.O.T. Approach.

H.O.T. Schools has developed its whole-school change approach by weaving best practices in arts in education with the needs and experiences of urban, suburban, and rural school communities. Through careful planning, application, reflection, and redirection, the H.O.T. Approach to teaching and

learning has emerged to enhance the growth and development of each participating school.

